



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

re patent application of:

) Date: March 15, 2005

Kenneth G. Miller, et al.

) Attorney Docket No.: F-711

Serial No.: 10/721,640

) Customer No.: 00919

Filed: November 25, 2003

) Group Art Unit: 3626

Confirmation No.: 5612

)

For: **EARLY BILL PAYMENT PROCESS**

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants submit herewith patents, publications or other information of which they are aware, which they believe may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56.

While this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to herein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(b) exists.

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to be an admission that the information cited in the

statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(b).

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in accordance with the following provisions, as identified below with marked boxes, available under 37 CFR § 1.97:

1. ☒ 37 CFR §1.97(b) - This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed according to one of the following: (i) within 3 months of the filing date of this application (other than a CPA); (ii) within 3 months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application; (iii) before the mailing of a first Office action on the merits; or (iv) before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination under § 1.114.

OR

2. ☐ 37 CFR §1.97(c) - This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of any of a final action under § 1.113, a notice of allowance under § 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and it is accompanied by the statement or fee as identified below:

2.1 ☐ Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1) - see below.

OR

2.2 ☐ Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(2) - see below.

OR

2.3 ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. **16-1885** in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the fee set forth in § 1.17(p).

**** Provisional Fee Authorization.** If Box 2.1 or Box 2.2 is marked above and a final action under § 1.113 has in fact been mailed before the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. **16-1885** in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the fee set forth in § 1.17(p) as if Box 2.3 had been marked.

OR

3. ☐ 37 CFR §1.97(d) - This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed on or before payment of the issue fee and it is accompanied by the statement and fee as identified below:

3.1.1 ☐ Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1) - see below.

OR

3.1.2 ☐ Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(2) - see below.

AND

3.2 ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. **16-1885** in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the fee set forth in § 1.17(p).

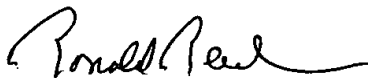
Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1) - Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(2) - No item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing below, after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

A list of the patent(s) and/or publication(s) is set forth on the attached Form PTO-1449 (Modified). A copy of each of the foreign art items on PTO-1449 (Modified) is supplied herewith.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. **16-1885**.

Respectfully submitted,



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Technology Law Department
35 Waterview Drive
P.O. Box 3000
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Plus attachments: Form PTO-1449 (Modified)
Copy of foreign art cited

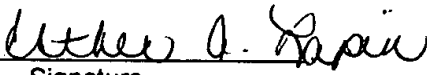
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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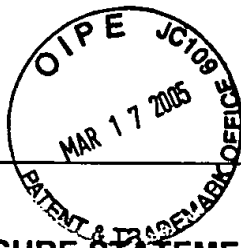
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

On March 15, 2005
Date of Deposit

Esther A. Lapin
Name of Rep.


Signature

March 15, 2005
Date



FORM PTO-1449 (Modified) INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT					Atty. Docket Number F-711		Serial No. 10/721,640	
					Applicant Kenneth G. Miller, et al.			
					Filing Date November 25, 2003		Group 3626	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS								
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
	AA	2003/0009420 A1	Jan 2003	Jones				
	AB	2002/0152165 A1	Oct 2002	Dutta, et al.				
	AC	2002/0128967 A1	Sept 2002	Meyer, et al.				
	AD	2001/0037297 A1	Nov 2001	McNair				
	AE							
	AF							
	AG							
	AH							
	AI							
	AJ							
	AK							
FOREIGN PATENT OR PUBLISHED PATENT APPLICATION DOCUMENTS								
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY OR PATENT OFFICE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
	AL	EP 1341130 A2	Sept 2003	EP			No	
	AM	WO 02/082212 A2	Oct 2002	PCT			No	
	AN							
	AO							
	AP							
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)								
	AR							
	AS							
	AT							
EXAMINER					DATE CONSIDERED			
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance <u>and</u> not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.								